



Participant Success Stories

Open Door Youth Services

Program Overview

Provides services to runaways and other youth in crisis throughout Brown, Door, Kewaunee, Oconto and Marinette Counties. A primary goal of the program is to resolve conflict and reunite runaway youth with their families as quickly as possible.

Who We Serve

Any youth under the age of 18 in crisis in any of the five counties served can participate in the program voluntarily. **2009: 265 youth received in-person counseling; 1,114 received counseling services by phone.**

A Story of Success

Open Door Youth Services received a call from a distraught mom not knowing what to do or where to turn. Her 17 year old son, Jordan, had run away for three days straight. He eventually came home, but was still very angry and emotional. During those three days, Jordan got word that his mom was calling him in as a runaway to police and presented to the Crisis Center saying she kicked him out. When Crisis Workers advised he was not listed as a runaway, he refused mediation and walked back out the door to the streets. Open Door staff agreed to meet with the family in their home to talk about what was going on.

The first few sessions were full of angry words and extreme tempers. One session mom actually left the apartment and staff had to track her down to process what had happened. Jordan eventually opened up when they met a few times alone. He talked about his failed attempts at establishing a relationship with his dad, which hurt deeply. He also shared that he had been running from home for years and has even gone to the extreme of sleeping in a park one night. Staff helped him understand that running might help temporarily, but that it does not solve any problems long-term.

Today, Jordan and mom have "agreed to disagree" on a few issues and better understand each other's personality. They realize they sometimes have to let the past stay in the past and look forward. Jordan has not had any further incidents of running from home since involvement with Open Door Youth Services. He has great aspirations and dreams for the future and we are 100% confident he will achieve them.

Open Door Youth Services has offices at 300 Crooks Street in Green Bay, 827 N 8th Avenue in Sturgeon Bay, and 1907 Ella Court in Marinette.

The above story is an example of the type of children and families we serve. Names, ages, and other personal information have been changed to protect the client's confidentiality.

Family Services of Northeast Wisconsin, Inc.

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